



**For Immediate Release: XX**

**Media Contact:** Nahal Mogharabi, 213-244-1815, [mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov](mailto:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov)

## **U.S. EPA Finds Exide Technologies in Violation of the Clean Air Act**

*Excess lead emissions released from Vernon, Calif. facility*

**LOS ANGELES** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notified Exide Technologies of federal violations found at its Vernon, Calif. lead smelting facility. EPA's investigation, prompted by community concerns as well as ongoing investigations by state and local agencies, found Exide in violation of the Clean Air Act lead emissions standards on more than 30 occasions. EPA's investigation of the facility is ongoing.

"Exide has increased the health risks for the nearby community by releasing lead into the environment," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Enforcing the Clean Air Act is a critical responsibility of the EPA and we will remain vigilant to ensure Exide is complying with federal law."

Federal clean air laws require areas with unhealthy air develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to implement, maintain and achieve EPA's air quality standards. Under the state's SIP, large lead-acid battery recycling facilities are prohibited from emitting lead into the air that exceeds 0.15ug/m<sup>3</sup> over any 30 consecutive day period. Under the Clean Air Act, any violation of the SIP is a violation of federal law.

EPA's review of data collected from air quality monitors at locations on or around the facility showed average lead emissions above the 0.15ug/m<sup>3</sup> standard from March 22 through April 19, 2014. In addition excess emissions were found on or about October 25, 2012, September 9, 2013, September 18, 2013, and January 2 through January 3, 2014.

The facility has ten working days to request a meeting with EPA. The agency is evaluating its enforcement options against the company. Exide faces a penalty of up to \$37,500 per day for each violation based on federal statutory law.

Exide Technologies is a battery recycling facility located at 2700 South Indiana Avenue in Vernon, Calif. and has been in operation since 1922. Exide recovers lead from recycled automotive batteries and other lead-bearing scrap materials and recycles 23,000 to 41,000 batteries daily. The Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates hazardous waste generated at the facility. The South Coast Air Quality Management District is the lead agency responsible for enforcing rules and permit conditions to ensure that the facility operates in compliance with air pollution requirements, and has taken several enforcement actions against

Exide for similar violations of local air quality rules. EPA and South Coast Air Quality Management District are working closely to ensure compliance and protect the community from harmful excess lead emissions.

Lead is a major environmental health hazard for young children and pregnant women. Exposure to lead can result in lowered intelligence, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span, and hyperactivity.

For more information about the Clean Air Act, visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/aboutus.html>

###